

Operation: Military Kids (OMK)

www.operationmilitarykids.org

In 2010, over 110,000 youth participated in experiences conducted by state OMK teams in 49 states and the District of Columbia. 950 community members representing 48 national, state and local organizations worked together to create local support networks and utilize core OMK program elements (Hero Packs; Mobile Technology Labs; Speak Out for Military Kids and Ready, Set, Go! training) to help military school age children and youth through the deployment of a loved one.

22,700 Hero Packs were assembled by local communities and delivered to military children. Hero Packs serve as a "Thank You" to military youth for their sacrifices and as an expression of support from their communities and OMK Partners.

41,000 youth utilized the Mobile Technology Labs (MTL) to communicate with deployed loved ones, learn about technology, make video messages to send to deployed loved ones and to enhance other OMK educational experiences. Service members also used the MTL to tape stories and leave video messages behind for their children.

2,400 teens helped generate community support and activism by learning to tell their stories of deployment through Speak Out for Military Kids (SOMK). Teens learned valuable leadership, research, organization, technology, public speaking and presentations skills.

OMK state team members from 26 states received updated Ready, Set, Go! training on the unique issues facing military youth, military culture, the deployment cycle, fostering resilience in youth and building effective community and statewide networks of support for military youth. OMK State Teams conducted 390 Ready, Set, Go! training sessions for 39,000 local community members.

Youth Leadership

This summer 169 Active Duty and Four Army Reserve Teens attended Region Youth Leadership Forums. While at Forums, teens:

- enjoyed meeting teens from other garrisons
- participated in interactive projects
- increased their knowledge of programs and services available through Child, Youth & School Services
- focused on ways to increase social networking and marketing in garrison youth programs
- participated in service-learning projects
- increased awareness of environment and economics
- produced a public service announcement (PSA) addressing under-aged drinking and peer pressure

The Accessions Command Teen Panel proposed and developed a plan for ongoing long-term community outreach projects and organized service-learning projects resulting in the involvement and connection with more geographically dispersed military teens.

The 15 member Army Teen Panel participated in the Army Family Action Plan conference providing input to issues impacting youth Army-wide. As part of their out brief to the AFAP conference they prepared and presented a PSA about the importance of garrison youth programs.

15 Army Teen Panel members, nine of them new to the panel, met in San Antonio, TX. They developed goals and objectives for their term which will be reported to Army Senior Leadership quarterly.



School-Age and Youth Programs

Army School Age Programs continue to maintain 100% accreditation!

4-H/Army Youth Development Specialists in conjunction with FMWRC Youth Staff, continued to deliver consistent, hands-on training as more garrison youth program Staff participated in the Creative Programming for Today's Youth Course. Course content helps staff learn about communicating with youth, expanding youth programming options and developing strategies for reaching more Army youth. Youth Development Specialists were also instrumental in planning, creating, implementing and presenting the Army School-Age Director's Training which focused on getting back to the basics of programming for school-age children and Accreditation. Additionally, Youth Development Specialists provided technical assistance in the Youth Sponsorship and VENTUREPOINT! Programs.

4-H/Army Youth Development Technology Specialists

4-H/Army Technology Specialists conducted training for 60 garrison Functional Technology Specialists (FTS) featuring experiential workshops highlighting CYSTEKWARE programs such as renewable energy, space and astronomy, robotics, re-using technology and animation as well as in-depth, hands-on training in the Child & Youth Management System (CYMS).



Practices Implemented from the training included:

- Watervliet, NY used the robotics CYSTEKWARE to program for a summer camp. The camp involved older youth leading younger youth through the process of building, testing and running their Lego robots.
- Fort Richardson, AK, School-Age Services supported home schooled children by scheduling dedicated hours five days a week in their Youth Technology program.
- Fort Hood, TX, developed a robotics program that recycled soda cans.
- Joint Base Lewis/McChord, WA, used CYSTEKWARE programs to focus on learning how computers work, constructing balloon vehicles, bridges, animation, digital photography and problem solving. Children designed and built cranes using pencils, tape, milk cartons and candy canes to see how heavy a load could be lifted.

4-H/Army Technology Specialists facilitated two Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs). The first developed recommendations for CYS Services Youth Technology Labs (YTL) which provided the foundation for an Army CYS Services presence on Facebook and other social networking sites. The second advisory group focused on choosing new software for the YTLs. Specialists also conducted webinars to allow YTL program staff and FTS to share programming and activity ideas as well as to troubleshoot issues and share best practices.



4-H/Army Youth Development Project Historic Highlights

- Official Project Names - Army School-Age and Teen Project (1995-1999); USDA/Army Youth Development Project (2000-2005); 4-H/Army Youth Development Project (2005 – present)
- 1995 first Army Teen Panel followed by Region Army Teen Panels in 2003
- Teen Discovery, first held in Georgia, evolved into Youth Leadership Forums, an important part of the Teen Chain of Communication (1995)
- Army Youth Technology program identified hardware, software and programming options and establishes positions supporting the labs
- Army Child, Youth & School Services sustain 100% Certification status for School Age, Middle School & Teen Programs
- 4-H 101 trained military personnel and Extension staff in 4-H program basics (2002-2003)
- The addition of the 4-H/Air Force (2003) partnership along with the 4-H/Army partnership created the Military 4-H Club Grant Program resulting in total Military 4-H enrollment since 2004 of 93,685 Army Youth members, 5,894 staff and volunteers and more than 2,400 clubs
- Military Surge in 2007 resulted in the Joint Family Support Assistance Program (JFSAP) expansion, development of Yellow Ribbon support materials and DoD camps for OMK
- OMK grew from five pilot states in 2004 to 50 states in 2010
- Military 4-H Club grants increased from 25 states in 2004 to 41 states in 2010

Awards and Commendations

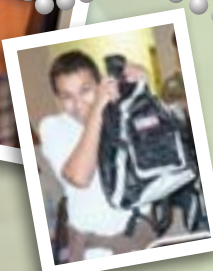
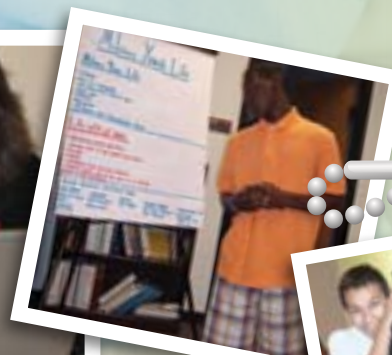
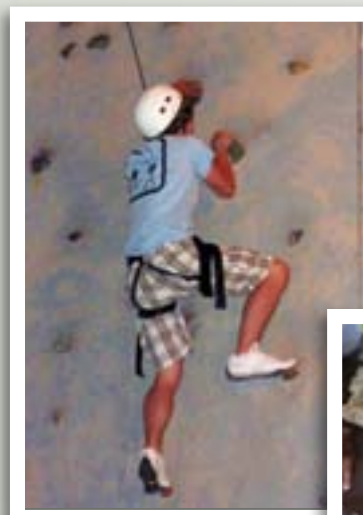
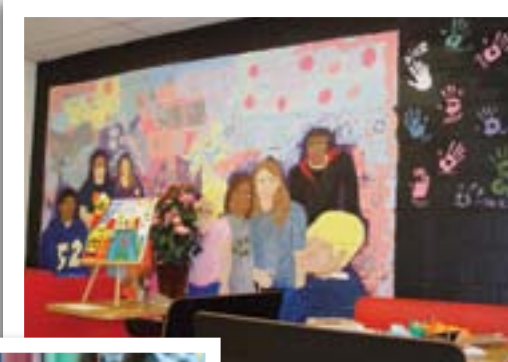
- Department of Defense Certificate of Commendation awarded to The United States Department of Agriculture National 4-H Youth Development Program (2006)
- Secretary of Agriculture Honor Award (2006)
- Texas A&M Extension partnership Award "Military Partnerships Project for 4-H and Operation: Military Kids" (2010)

Salute Award Winners

- 2002 Ann Hall, El Paso County, Colorado
- 2003 Claire Nakastuka, Oahu County, Hawaii
- 2004 Darcy Tessman, Cochise County, Arizona
- 2005 Maureen Bergenfeld, El Paso County, Colorado
- 2006 Lisa Lauxman, University of Arizona
- 2007 Theresa Ferrari, Ohio State University
- 2008 Krista Hancock, Cumberland County, North Carolina
- 2009 Casey Mull, University of Georgia
- 2010 Amber Runke, University of Minnesota

Administrative Support by:

- Auburn University
- University of Georgia
- Kansas State University
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- University of Maryland
- Washington State University





Army 4-H Clubs

15,000 children and youth participated in 355 Garrison 4-H Clubs through their School-Age and Youth Programs. They were supported by 1,000 staff and volunteers. Children and youth learned to build and operate robots, planned and conducted community service projects, increased their awareness of healthy nutrition and fitness practices, gained communication and leadership skills, explored science and technology and connected with other 4-H'ers in neighboring communities by participating in county, district, state and national events.

Army 4-H Highlights

- More than 2,600 children and youth entered exhibits and participated in contests
- More than 1,100 participated in local, county, district and state fairs
- 830 participated in 4-H camps
- More than 3,100 children and youth participated in community service projects like gathering care packages for Soldiers, planting flowers, cleaning roadsides and visiting senior citizens
- 1,100 Army 4-H'ers attended local and national workshops and conferences to increase their knowledge and enhance their skills.



4-H 101 Reset!

As a core CYS Services program, 4-H Clubs provide mobile military children and youth with community linkages and positive growth and development opportunities no matter where their Soldier parents are stationed. During FY10, 260 garrison and extension staff who participated in 4-H 101 Reset gained new ideas on expanding Army 4-H Clubs, connecting Army youth with 4-H opportunities "outside the gates," promoting resiliency through 4-H, integrating science and technology into programming and linking with other partner programs.

State 4-H Military Liaisons

State 4-H Military Liaisons in 54 states and territories serve as the central point of contact for military partnerships with youth. They link the resources of the Land Grant University Extension System with Military Youth Programs worldwide.

State 4-H Military Liaisons Highlights:

- Provided assistance to county 4-H and installation staff in incorporating the Military 4-H Clubs and members into the county, state, and national 4-H program
- Provided leadership to 50 Operation: Military Kids (OMK) State Teams
- Coordinated camping opportunities for youth through the OMK camping initiative grant
- Conducted the third 4-H Military Partnerships Conference Session at the annual Children Youth and Families At Risk (CYFAR) Conference
- Supported 4-H programs for military youth in Europe, Korea, Japan & Kwajalein (Maryland and Hawaii)
- Managed 50 OMK grants, 39 OMK camp grants, and 43 Military 4-H Club grants
- Shared information and lessons learned at the annual State 4-H Military Liaisons meeting

Resources Developed and Available on the 4-H Military Partnerships Website

www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org

- Moving Ahead (Preparing the Youth Development Professional)
- Homework Center Manual
- Computer Lab Operations Manual
- Enhancing Your Youth Programs Through the Effective Use of Technology
- 4-H 101
- Youth Technology Lab Operations Reference Book
- Up for the Challenge: Lifetime Fitness, Healthy Decisions
- Babysitting Course
- Enhance Your Youth Program with Service-Learning
- Speak Out for Military Kids Manual
- Hero Pack Manual
- 3-2-1...Action! Videography Workshop Handbook
- Experience OMK Activity Guide
- Operation: Boots On
- CYSTEKWARE
- Operation: Military Kids Deployment Cycle Support
- Yellow Ribbon Youth Outreach Materials
- Operation: Boots Off
- imAlone
- CHARACTER COUNTS!sm U.S. Army Child & Youth Services Character Development Seminars Manual
- Child Development Center Character Cards
- Youth Leadership Forum Handbook
- OMK Ready, Set, Go! Training Manual
- OMK Implementation Guide
- 4-H/Army Public Service Announcements

The 4-H/Army Youth Development Project would not be possible without the support of the following Universities who have provided Project Staff:

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Auburn University | University of Illinois |
| Clemson University | University of Kentucky |
| Colorado State University | University of Maryland |
| Cornell University | University of Massachusetts |
| Iowa State University | University of Minnesota |
| Kansas State University | University of Missouri |
| North Carolina State University | North Dakota State University |
| Oregon State University | Utah State University |
| Texas A & M University | University of Wisconsin |
| Alabama A & M University | Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University |
| University of Alaska | Washington State University |
| University of Arizona | |
| University of California, Davis | |
| University of Florida | |
| University of Georgia | |
| University of Idaho | |

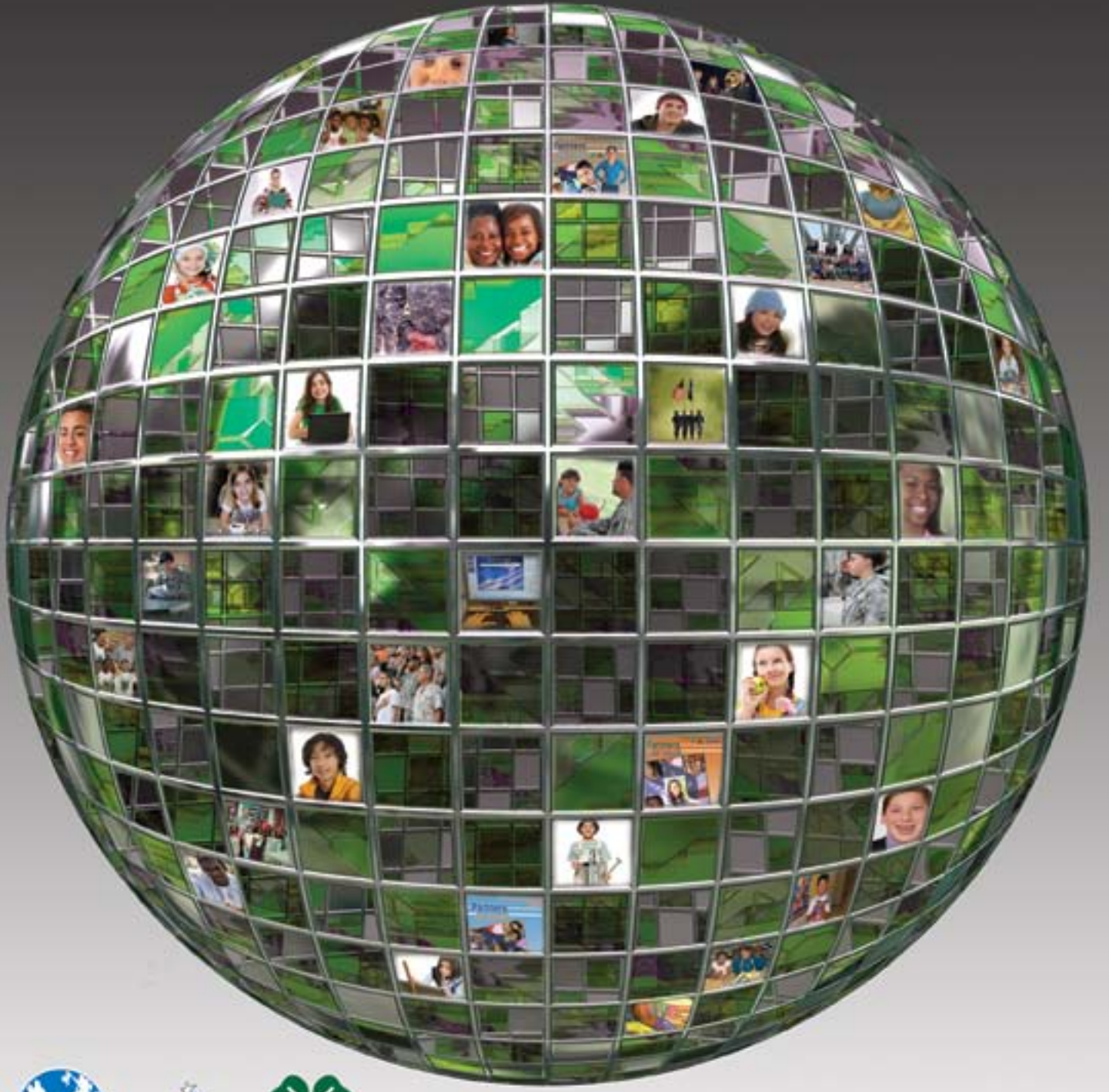


Partners for Youth

15th ANNIVERSARY

4-H/ARMY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

a work of art, functional and durable



ANNUAL REPORT 2010

4-H/Army Youth Development Project

Fifteen Years Strong Making the Best Better

Crystal glass is the primary material for a fifteenth anniversary, sparkly, glittery with angles. Created from organic materials, glass is forged, fired, honed, shaped with additives for color and texture. Skill is required to form and blow glass into shapes to become works of art, yet functional and durable, for everyday use. That certainly defines the past fifteen years of the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project, a work of art, functional and durable. Taking the best of each, the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project reflects the readiness to serve, and making the best better throughout the past fifteen years.

Creating connections, enhancing competency and increasing capacity have been the keys to improving Child, Youth & School (CYS) Services program quality.

Initially, the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project's key component was the USDA Specialists who provided the land-grant extension expertise in youth development programming and technology. Still current today, the USDA Specialists help Army Staff provide 4-H opportunities for Army children and youth.

The 4-H/Army Youth Development Project delivers the 4-H Program's mission mandates which include 4-H Sciences; Healthy Living; and Citizenship. Youth both on and off post are served through the partnership despite on-going deployments, base closures, and troop movements.

Connections have been strengthened in the past fifteen years with the State 4-H Military Liaisons, which first started as 4-H Army Liaisons, who now serve in each state/territory tying the local, county, and state 4-H programs to new audiences and strengthening Child, Youth & School Services' capacity to provide predictable programming to Army Youth regardless of where the Family is stationed.

Curriculum development has been provided through the past fifteen years with training materials such as Moving Ahead, 4-H 101, imAlone, CYSitter, and CYSTEKWARE. Staff competency and capacity is strengthened through use of these programming materials.

When the need arose, the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project cast another facet to the partnership through Operation: Military Kids to support geographically dispersed military youth. Now reaching out via 50 Operation: Military Kids State Teams, connections are built and expanded with local networks to serve military youth in the communities in which they live.

Fifteen years ago, a partnership was formed that continues to build connections, competency, and capacity. May the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project partnership continue to shine and sparkle.

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